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Harper Proceeding On Drug-Trade Book Despite C.I.A. View

After receiving a brief critique from the Central Intelligence Agency, Harper & Row, Inc., has decided to proceed with the publication of a book by a 26-year-old Yale graduate student that charges that the agency is involved in heroin trafficking in south east Asia.

Harper & Row submitted galleys of the book, "The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia" by Alfred W. McCoy, to the C.I.A. after the agency's general counsel, Lawrence R. Houston, wrote the publishing house on July 5, asking "to see the text."

B. Brooks Thomas, vice president and general counsel of Harper & Row, said yesterday in an interview that the C.I.A.'s criticisms, delivered by hand on July 28, "were pretty general and we found ourselves rather underwhelmed by them."

In the book, Mr. McCloy states: "American diplomats and secret agents have been involved in the narcotics traffic at three levels: (1) coincidental complicity by allying with groups actively engaged in the drug traffic; (2) abetting the traffic by covering up for known heroin traffickers and condoning their involvement; (3) and active engagement in the transport of opium and heroin."

In a covering letter to the eight-page, 1,500-word critique, Mr. Houston stated that "it is plain that Mr. McCloy has limited his citations to those supporting his thesis, and he appears to have ignored available information which might contradict it."

"The truth is that the C.I.A. has never been involved in the drug traffic and is actively engaged in fighting against it," the letter added.

In a telephone interview from New Haven, Mr. McCloy said he was "struck" by the "incredible disparity" between the "confident, strident, militant tone" of initial C.I.A. criticisms of the book and "the final letter, which was very weak—pathetic almost."

The book is scheduled for release on Aug. 17.

C.I.A. Plans No Further Action Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—The C.I.A. plans no further attempts to block publication of the McCoy book, a spokesman for the agency said today.

Referring to the announced decision of Harper & Row to proceed with early publication of the book, the spokesman said:

"We sent them a letter and that's it. I haven't heard any talk here of seeking an injunction or taking any other legal steps to halt publication."

P-McCoy, Alfred

Soc. 4-01.2 Harper & Row

Politics of
Heroin in S.E. Asia

CIA 4.01 Drug Traffic

CIA 1.03 Houston, Lawrence

P-Welkes, Benjamin